

Herr Erzberger Denies Letter About Poland

Says Quoted Statement as to Germany's Secret Policy of Aggression Is Not by Him and Is a Forgery

Frank H. Simonds Replies

He Submitted the Document to an Acid Test and Still Believes It Is Genuine

By William C. Dreher

BERLIN, Feb. 15.—Herr Erzberger says the letter quoted by Frank H. Simonds in The New York Tribune of Sunday, January 18, is not by him and is a complete forgery.

The foregoing dispatch was read to Mr. Simonds, who thereupon addressed the following statement to The Tribune:

"The Erzberger letter came into my possession from sources and under circumstances which leave not the smallest doubt in my mind as to its authenticity. I am not going to retract my sources, for reasons which must be obvious, but before publishing it I submitted it to an acid test.

"It is worth noting that references to the letter but not the letter itself, were published in Paris last summer. I did not see these at the time, but subsequently a copy of a newspaper published in English was sent to my attention, and I was able to obtain very specific references to the Erzberger letter and some of its sensational statements.

"I can quite understand why Herr Erzberger should now charge that his letter was a forgery, but this charge does not in the least impair my belief in its authenticity, which rests upon my knowledge of the past and the character of the document itself and the very general European knowledge and publication of the fact of the letter's existence.

"Naturally, neither of the last two circumstances would have led me to publish it without verification, but after verification they are interesting details.

The letter to which the above cable and Mr. Simonds's statement refer was quoted by Mr. Simonds in an article discussing Germany's future attitude toward the world. It was attributed to Matthias Erzberger, who signed the armistice for Germany.

The paragraph in the letter which Mr. Simonds considered most illuminating as reflecting the uttermost spirit of militarism in Germany follows: "If we (Germans) succeed in hindering the war of a strong Poland, then the future is quite clear for us. Then the Anglo-Saxons cannot close the road to Russia to us. We will undertake the restoration of Russia and in possession of such a Russia we will bring France, without any effort, into our power. The march toward Paris will be easier than in 1914. The last step but one toward the world domination will be reached. The continent is ours."

Another paragraph considered significant was: "We need Lithuania and Ukraine as German outposts. As France in the west so Poland in the east is the corner-stone of Anglo-Saxon continental power. Poland guarded, the way to Russia is closed. If we succeed in keeping Poland down it will mean enormous gains for us. In the first place, France's position on the Continent is, in the long run, untenable; second, the way to Russia is open. That is, even for a blind man, Germany's future. Nothing must disturb us in the great problem before us. Poland is the sole but a very powerful obstacle."

This letter, according to Mr. Simonds's article, was written by Erzberger six months after he signed the armistice and was sent by Erzberger to many prominent Germans.

Beer Bill Introduced in Jersey Legislature

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 17.—Enactment of an act to permit the manufacture, sale and transportation of beer was seemingly assured to-night when Senator Pilgrim, Republican, of Essex County, introduced a bill which would authorize beverages containing 2.75 per cent alcohol by weight, or about 3.4 per cent by volume. Indications were that the Republican majority in both houses will pass this measure instead of the Democratic 4 per cent beer bill, favored by Governor Edward J. Hughes.

Citizens Plan to Finance Moving Village of 1,000

OSBORN, Ohio, Feb. 17.—Plans for organization of a citizens' stock company to finance the moving of this village to a site one and a half miles to the southeast were discussed at a meeting held in the Council chamber to-night, but no definite action was taken. The village, which has a population of 1,000, is forced to vacate its present location to make way for the Miami Valley flood protection project.

Bondy Art on Sale To-day

Reappraisal Shows Prima Donna Left \$224,174

The sale of an object collected by the late Emil C. Bondy will begin this afternoon at the Plaza Art Rooms. Among the pieces are Flemish tapestries, suits of gothic furniture, Oriental and European paintings. With these will be sold household furnishings collected by W. S. Cox and additions from other private owners including Queen Anne and Georgian furniture, water colors, early American and English china, and a collection of diamonds set in platinum.

The contents of the former town house of the late Mary Maxwell, 44 West Fifty-fifth Street, will be sold by auction on the premises this afternoon by C. B. Clarke of the Old Galleries. In addition to a collection of paintings and a library of modern works, there also are a collection of coins and examples of medals, art, minerals and jewelry. The household furniture, silver, glass and porcelain also will be disposed of at the sale.

Denies "Unkissed Bride" Got Divorce at His Cost

Believed Their Chicago Trip Was to Engage New Music Teacher, Declares Hoyt

Arthur S. Hoyt, seventy-two years old, took the witness stand before Justice Platt in Supreme Court at White Plains yesterday and denied the allegation of his "unkissed bride," Estelle Carroll Hoyt, that he had paid the expenses of her Illinois divorce from T. J. McMahon. He swore that he supposed her never to have been wed when he married her.

Hoyt is seeking annulment of the marriage on the ground that Mrs. McMahon's divorce from McMahon was invalid under the New York statutes. Mrs. Hoyt, who is thirty-seven years old, is a teacher of French in Hamilton College, at Lexington, Ky. She was private secretary to Mr. Hoyt in his New York office. He testified that he sent her to Europe to study music and that he accompanied her to Chicago. This latter trip, he said, he believed was for the purpose of engaging a new music teacher, not to arrange for her divorce.

"We have both been disillusioned. You advised me to take the matter to God and I have done so," Hoyt said. His wife wrote to him from Highland Falls after they separated in 1915.

B. R. T. Men Accept Working Schedule

Clamor for Strike, Quit Meeting, Then Return to Approve Co.'s Terms

The threatening, though repeatedly denied, strike of B. R. T. employees seemed momentarily nearer to reality last night, when about 2,000 members of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees met in P. M. Garden, Greene and Wilson avenues, Brooklyn, refused to accept the offer as to working schedule offered by General Manager Menden and clamored "Strike! Strike! Strike!"

Mr. Menden's offer was to put into effect on February 24 70 per cent of the new working schedules, and to initiate the remaining 30 per cent on March 6.

The men rejected the proposal almost unanimously.

It took the combined arguments of Patrick J. Shea, president of the Amalgamated, Hugh Frayne and J. H. Fridger to get the meeting from voting a strike then and there.

Then, when the meeting had ended and the men who had been clamoring for a strike were pouring out of the hall, after announcing that they would give the company until next Tuesday to install the new schedule, they expressed an unwillingness to accept a sudden change of heart.

They lingered outside the building, arguing and squabbling among themselves. Some one suggested that they accept the offer, but the men who were meeting met with approval and they resumed their seats.

Some one rose and moved that Mr. Menden's offer be accepted. Another seconded it, and the men who fifteen minutes before had been shouting "Strike!" carried it unanimously. They will now await the outlined change in working schedules unless they have another sudden change of heart.

Republican Club Urges Drastic Law for Aliens

The National Republican Club last night adopted unanimously resolutions presented by William Williams, former Commissioner of Immigration, calling for amendment of the immigration laws.

The resolution calls for an effective administration of the existing immigration laws at every point where aliens may enter the country and for continuation of that branch of the immigration service having to do with deportation of undesirable aliens.

All aliens, under Mr. Williams's resolution, will be required to register and report to some government authority once a year. Appropriate measures for the gradual Americanization of all aliens in this country are also urged.

The resolutions also call for the repeal of laws in certain Western and Southern states that permit aliens to vote after filing a declaration of intention to become citizens and demand a stringent regulation of the foreign press.

Ex-Czar Not Summoned; \$1,000,000 Writ Denied

Because summons had not been served on Nicholas II, ex-Czar of Russia, Justice Callaghan in the Brooklyn Supreme Court yesterday dismissed the application of the Marine Transport Service Corporation to restrain Countess and her husband, Prince Nicholas Romanoff, from leaving the United States.

Rockefeller Will Filed

The will of Mrs. Almira G. Rockefeller, wife of William Rockefeller, was filed in the Surrogate's Court yesterday. The testatrix died on January 17, at Jekyll Island, Ga. She left no real estate. Her personal property was valued at more than \$100,000.

Texas University Alumni Will Dine Here March 2

The University of Texas Association of New York will celebrate Texas Independence Day at a dinner on March 2. The membership having been scattered by the war, the secretary of the association, Mrs. Wayman Adams, 163 West Eighty-seventh Street, asks that friends and former students of the University of Texas communicate with her.

Root May Not Go To Convention as One of "Big Four"

Health Said To Be Drawback; Question Likely To Be Decided at Dinner to Hays To-night

Elihu Root, former Secretary of State, slated to head the New York "Big Four" delegates-at-large to the Republican National Convention, may not attend, it was said yesterday. Mr. Root is not in his usual health.

For the present, there is no change in the "Big Four" slate, and Mr. Root, Colonel William B. Thompson and Senators Wadsworth and Calder are in it. In case Mr. Root should not go, Miss Mary Garrett Hay, Colonel Herbert Parsons or former Governor Odell may be chosen by Miss Hay.

There is no longer much doubt about the determination of the state organization to rally to the support of Senator Wadsworth.

It is expected that definite information about Mr. Root's intentions concerning Chicago will be learned to-night when Colonel Thompson gives a dinner for Will H. Hays, chairman of the Republican National Committee, at the Waldorf-Astoria, to be attended by delegates from all over the state.

The Republican State Committee will meet to-morrow afternoon and at 8:30 the delegates will convene in Carnegie Hall to listen to Mr. Root. It is believed that he will present the issues of the campaign. The convention will elect the four delegates-at-large. State Chairman Glynn will call the convention to order and make a brief address. Odell may be chosen by Miss Hay.

The convention will be the largest in the history of the state, it was said yesterday. The delegates will number nearly 1,000. Seats on the main floor of the hall for only 1,011. The delegates from the Bronx, Westchester and Rockland counties will be seated on the speakers' platform. The spectators will be accommodated in the boxes and galleries.

Mill Blames Democrats For Anti-"Red" Hysteria

Declares Curtailing Free Speech Is "as Stupid as It Is Wrong"

Deplored the present campaign against radicals as hysteria, Ogden L. Mills, in an address before the Republican County Committee at Bryn Mawr, last night, held the Democratic Administration responsible for it and accused it of both leniency toward laboring propaganda and of an attempt to destroy fundamental American liberties on the one hand.

"There is no occasion for serious alarm," said Mr. Mills, speaking of the "Red" menace. "The danger can be met by a firm and consistent attitude on the part of the government and by the Administration of a vigorous and impartial justice under that orderly process which guarantees to each individual the protection of the fundamental law."

The Administration has trifled with the issue. It has wavered between the extravagant leniency of Fred Howe and the arbitrary use of power by Secretary Wilson and A. Mitchell Palmer. It has wavered between open dereliction of duty and hysterical activity. Their hysteria has been contagious, and today, following the leadership of the government, patriotic but misguided men and women are trying to save America by destroying one of the fundamental cornerstones of American liberty—the right to free speech—a policy which is as stupid as it is wrong."

Roosevelt Introduces Minimum Wage Bill

Measure Supported by A. F. of L. and Women Now Before Legislature

ALBANY, Feb. 17.—Assemblyman Theodore Roosevelt introduced to-day the minimum wage bill, backed by the women's joint legislative conference and the State Federation of Labor.

It provides for the appointment by the Governor of a minimum wage commission to determine the minimum wage of women in industry. The minimum rate will be set by a wage board appointed by the commission to investigate conditions and to decide the lowest amount on which a woman working in a particular industry and locality can live in health and efficiency. The wage board will be made up of nine persons, three representing the employers, three representing the employees and three representing the public. After determining what is a living wage in any community and industry the board will recommend its decision to the minimum wage commission, which will set the rate, after well-advised public hearings.

Assemblyman Roosevelt has received many letters and telegrams of appreciation from working women because of his interest in the passage of the bill.

"As important a problem as we have confronting us in this country," said Colonel Roosevelt in discussing his bill, "is the adjustment of the relationship of employer and employee. To my mind an important principle bearing directly on this adjustment is set forth by this bill in its wage board."

Sultan of Egypt Celebrates

CAIRO, Feb. 17.—The Sultan of Egypt is distributing 12,000 pounds among the poor of Cairo and Alexandria in celebration of the birth of an heir to the Sultanate.

Prince Ahmed Fuad was chosen by the British to succeed his late brother, King Kemal, as Sultan in October, 1917.

Magistrate Norris Criticizes Sessions Court for Reversals

Woman Jurist Insists Police Work Is Hampered and Her Bench Restricted by the Overturned Decisions

Magistrate Joan Norris, the only woman magistrate in New York City, yesterday criticized the Court of General Sessions for its continual reversal of convictions by the Women's Court of girls found guilty there of immorality. She took exception in particular to the hampering effect, as she sees it, that these reversals have upon the police.

"If the testimony of the police is used this way in the Court of General Sessions," she said, "we may as well shut up court and declare the town wide open."

Magistrate Norris's statement came after the reversal of her own decision by Judge Wadhams in the case of Grace Clayton, convicted of vagrancy in the Women's Court. She said that she took no exception to Judge Wadhams's reversal, but added:

"Since Judge Wadhams in General Sessions on February 5 reversed the decision against Grace Clayton, the cases in the Women's Court have fallen off enormously because the hands of the police are now bound and the work of detectives of undoubted honesty, men who have families themselves, is being unravelled."

"I take no exception to Judge Wadhams's reversal," she said, "but I can be a fair and honest judge, and I can learn much from the decisions of the higher courts. But what makes one exaggerate is the continual flow of destructive criticism aimed at the Women's Court."

"Never has there been any constructive criticism. If the courts of higher appeal are to be of any use, they must build up instead of destroy, we would get along much better."

Navy Club Entertains Wounded Men at Dinner

Gift of \$10,000 by J. P. Morgan Announced; Clergymen to Appeal for Support

Wounded soldiers from the Fox Hills Military Hospital at Staten Island were entertained at a dinner last night at the Navy Club, 13-15 Forty-first Street. One hundred and twenty-five men were brought to the city in the afternoon by the War Camp Community Service and witnessed the performance at the Capitol Theater.

Mrs. William H. Hamilton, one of the executive officers of the Navy Club, said last night that with the closing of the war and the activities of the Navy Club for the service men in this city, a large number of dinners for wounded soldiers and sailors on Furlough will be given at the club.

J. P. Morgan gave \$10,000 to the Navy Club fund, it was announced yesterday at a luncheon at the club rooms. The luncheon was attended by business men who were supporting the \$700,000 endowment fund to make the club a permanent institution for the benefit of sailors and marines.

Women Ask O'Brian to Run Against Wadsworth

Buffalo Lawyer Refuses to Commit Himself on the Contest for Senator

BUFFALO, Feb. 17.—A delegation representing women's organizations called on John Lord O'Brian, former Special Assistant Attorney General, to-day and urged him to run for the Republican nomination for United States Senator against James W. Wadsworth.

Mr. O'Brian refused to commit himself. The women also called on Conrad E. Wetzel, chairman of the Republican county committee, chairman of the Wetzel committee, who was for the renomination of Senator Wadsworth.

Hold-Up Men Visit Two East Side Cigar Stores

Clerks of two United Cigar Stores within a few blocks of each other in the lower East Side were held up and robbed late last night by two men.

At 11:30 o'clock the men entered the store at Third Avenue and Nineteenth Street and held up Edward J. O'Neill, the clerk; Henry Rustin, a West Point cadet, who gave his address as Governor's Island, and Eugene Wollesky, a deaf man. Rustin started to put up a fight, but one of the men pressed a revolver against his chest and told him to keep quiet.

The deaf man was unaware of what was happening until a revolver was pressed against his head, and one of the hold-up men shouted in his ear to put up his hands. The two men made their escape with \$40.

Fifteen minutes later they appeared at a store in Twenty-third Street, near Lexington Avenue, where they held up George Munroe, the clerk, who was closing the store, and his brother John, who was waiting to accompany him home. The hold-up men made off with \$45.

8,500,000 to Oppose Leadership of Denikine

Council at Ekaterinodar Voices Desire for More Democratic Form of Government

NOVOROSSISK, Caucasus, Feb. 7 (Delayed) (By The Associated Press).—A special council representing the Don, Kuban and Terek sections, with a population of 8,500,000, agreed at a meeting at Ekaterinodar to-day to oppose the Bolsheviks under the leadership of General Denikine. The desire for a more democratic government was expressed, however. A minority of the council favored fighting only in Cossack territory.

The council, which has been holding daily meetings since January 18, comprises fifty representatives of the Don, Kuban and Terek districts, the Cossacks having 140 members for their 3,500,000 population. The council desires to make laws until a constituent assembly is possible.

The ministers appointed will be held responsible to the council, except the Ministers of War, Railways and Supplies, who will be responsible to General Denikine, the council being willing to grant Denikine the power of veto.

The newspapers are holding out apparently are generally demanding a more democratic government.

Rear Admiral Newton A. McCully, representing the United States with the anti-Bolshevik forces in south Russia, informed General Denikine, the anti "Red" leader, on February 6 at his headquarters, that the United States had not adhered to the decision of the Supreme Council at Paris recognizing the independence of the Georgian and Azerbaijan republics.

General Denikine expressed his appreciation of the attitude of the United States toward the measure, which he said would be disastrous to the anti-Bolshevik forces, although apparently it had been framed with the idea that it would stiffen the resistance to the "Reds."

Head of Ship Company Held on Libel Charge

Philip Manson, president of the Pacific and Eastern Steamship Company, was arrested yesterday at his office at 290 Broadway by Deputy Sheriffs Murphy and Einstein on an order signed by Justice Kelly, in Brooklyn, in a \$10,000 libel suit brought by the Morse Dry Dock and Repair Company. Mr. Manson provided a \$5,000 bond and was released.

The Star Company, publisher of "The New York American," is a co-defendant with Manson, the Hearst paper being sued for \$2,000,000. The Morse Dry Dock and Repair Company is basing its suits on a letter written by Manson to Senator Duncan U. Fletcher at Washington and published in "The American," in which Manson charged the plaintiff with receiving dishonest profits from the United States government for overhauling steamships.

Says Harkness Was Delirious When He Died

Continued from page 1

refused to make any statement yesterday, but her attorneys, Nicoll, Anable, Fuller & Sullivan, declared they were prepared for the suit. They stated that if the alleged "mutual contract will," which Mrs. Cowan says she possesses to establish her claim to the estate, is really a will, it is nullified by the last will. If it is a contract, entered into several years before her divorce from him, they say they will have precedents to show it is not enforceable.

It was stated that Mrs. Cowan filed a claim for the entire estate with Mrs. Harkness and John W. MacMiller, executors, three months ago on the basis of this so-called "mutual contract will," which was said to have been executed in 1909, but never made public. In addition, it was said that the State Comptroller's office shows that the gross value of the estate is a little more than \$10,000,000, and that when taxes and other debts against it are met it will show a net value of between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000.

First Connecticut Book Sold Here for \$1,775

G. D. Smith, a dealer, paid \$1,775 yesterday afternoon for the first book printed in Connecticut. "The Necessity of Judgment and Righteousness in a Land, A Sermon," at the sale of the rare American books from the private library of Francis W. Fabian, held at the galleries of the American Art Association.

The total reached for the Fabian sale was \$21,925. A sale of inscribed first editions and autographs of famous American and English authors from the collections of Francis W. Fabian and P. K. Foley brought a total of \$5,471.

Mr. Smith also purchased Increase Mather's "Several Reasons Proposing that Inoculating or Transplanting the Small Pox is a Lawful Practice," for \$1,950. He also bought "The Christian Cynic" and several other books by Cotton Mather. An inscribed copy of the first edition of Robert Louis Stevenson's "Travels With a Donkey in the Cévennes" was purchased by W. M. Hall for \$870.

Flushing Citizens Who Saved Bank Are Honored

Citizens of Flushing who came to the rescue of the Flushing National Bank when it was on the verge of closing its doors, and by sacrifice and hard work without remuneration revived the institution so that it is now doing a business of more than \$1,000,000 a year, were guests of honor at a dinner given by citizens of Flushing last night in St. Michael's parish hall.

In 1913 the bank was told by the Comptroller of Currency that it must close its doors. At that time its accounts were less than \$100,000, and \$50,000 of its \$150,000 capital had been lost. There was a reorganization with a capital stock of \$100,000, and since that time officers and directors have served without pay.

During the dinner Clarence W. Lowes, president of the institution, received a gold watch as a tribute to his work in reestablishing the bank.

Job E. Hedges, one of the speakers, was introduced as "the man who brought us the snow storm." He said that he was willing to take credit for "the snow if Mayor Hyman will bring on the rain." During his speech the electric lights went out, due to a fire in Long Island City. Mr. Hedges finished his address in the dark. Frank A. Vanderlip also spoke.

Archbold Estate Saves Big Sum in Tax Decision

Travis Loses Fight to Place a Higher Value on Oil Stock

The estate of John D. Archbold, president of the Standard Oil Company who died in 1916, will save many thousands of dollars under a decision rendered yesterday by Justice Finch in the Supreme Court.

The justice denied the application of State Comptroller Travis for an order vacating a stipulation entered into between his attorney and counsel for the Archbold estate to place a value of \$275 a share on 66,478 shares of Magnolia Petroleum Company stock held by the estate. This valuation for transfer tax purposes was agreed upon to expedite the settlement of the Archbold estate. Since then Comptroller Travis has sought to have a valuation placed on the Magnolia stock, as some of it was sold as high as \$475 a share.

Justice Finch decided that in view of the fact that Comptroller Travis did not appeal to the court within sixty days the stipulation fixing the \$275 value would have to stand.

Pershing a Duke for Night

Receives Coronet from King Rex at Mardi Gras Ball

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 17.—The 1920 carnival season came to an end to-night in the Rex ball, the concluding feature of the Mardi Gras celebration.

General John J. Pershing, created a "Duke of Victory" by Rex, the carnival king, was further honored at the ball to-night, where he was the guest of honor.

Rule by Civil Law Only Protection for Nation, Says Root

Preservation of Liberties Can Be Accomplished Only by Working in Season and Out, He Tells Lawyers

Elihu Root, speaking at the semi-centennial celebration last night of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, said that the preservation of civil liberties cannot be accomplished without constant effort in season and out of season.

"At the close of the Civil War," said Mr. Root, "a man could plant his feet upon the ground of the Constitution and if he could hold himself there he was safe. The Constitution was sacred. To-day all of the old postulates are denied. New theories of government assert themselves, with varied opinions as to the methods by which they may guide the old opinions."

"Not only the missionaries from Russia and the parlor Bolsheviks, but other people through the country think that it is all wrong that we have too much law."

"Never for an instant are they reading their history to see that the rule of law in civil society is all that holds back the unbridled hordes of barbarism."

Only by the leadership of opinion that the bar can give can the community be led to defend the law upon which depends the rights of all mankind.

The preservation of our civil liberties cannot be accomplished without constant effort in season and out of season. It demands that we bring to the minds of our clients, to our friends, to the community, the underlying principle of our system of government and our system of rendering justice.

"The great and pressing need of our country is for the maintenance of our institutions."

Others who spoke were Julien T. Davies and President Justice John Proctor Clarke, of the Appellate Division, First Department. John G. Milburn presided.

Harding May Run "Double"

Can't Withhold Senate Candidacy Pending Presidential Choice

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 17.—United States Senator Warren G. Harding, if he contemplates being a candidate for reelection in case he does not receive the Presidential nomination at the Chicago convention, will have to become a candidate both for Senator and the Presidential nomination at the same time.

Governor Cox to-day vetoed the Hopely bill, which would have permitted him to withhold his Senatorial candidacy until after the Chicago convention.



"Something big is going to happen in our Church next Sunday"

It was a hard headed business man speaking. He was tired—as all of us are—of having the Church constantly asking for money. He was ashamed—as all of us ought to be—that the church should have to ask. He was telling of what the Stewardship Plan would do for his Church.

"Most of the leading business men I've talked to are for it heart, soul and pocketbook" he said. "We have often wondered why the Church didn't get on a plain business basis of raising funds. With the Stewardship Plan there will be no more begging; no more deficits."

Something will happen next Sunday in every church—in your church—if every member recognizes that God is the owner of his life and earning power; and that he, himself, is simply a Steward.

February is set apart by the Evangelical Stewardship Calendar

For full information and help for Pastors, Sunday School Superintendents and Women's and Young People's Societies write the Stewardship Department

The INTERCHURCH World Movement of North America

45 WEST 18th STREET, NEW YORK CITY